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## WORLD

# Iran Pushes Back on Nuclear Disclosure at Vienna IAEA Meeting

U.N.'s atomic agency says organization needs extra \$10.6 million a year to police Iran nuclear deal



Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency Reza Najafi, pictured here in June, has warned the U.N. organization not to leak confidential information about Tehran's nuclear program. PHOTO: REUTERS

By **LAURENCE NORMAN**

Updated Aug. 25, 2015 10:19 a.m. ET

VIENNA—Iranian officials warned the United Nations atomic agency not to bow to pressure from U.S. lawmakers to detail its probe into Tehran's past nuclear work,

warning Iran will “not accept” any leaks of their discussions.

Speaking after a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Board of Governors in Vienna, Iranian Ambassador Reza Najafi dismissed the charge that Iran ever worked on nuclear weapons, reiterating Iran’s line that these were “baseless allegations” used to justify sanctions on his country.

“The IAEA should at the same time exercise utmost vigilance to ensure full protection of all confidential information coming to its knowledge,” Mr. Najafi told reporters. “We won’t accept any kind of leakage of classified information by anyone.”

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- U.N. Nuclear Chief Will Meet With Lawmakers Over Iran Inspections (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-n-nuclear-chief-will-meet-with-lawmakers-over-iran-inspections-1438387935>) (July 31)
- Nuclear Inspectors Will Need Access to Iran for Years, Says Head of IAEA (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/nuclear-inspectors-will-need-access-to-iran-for-years-says-head-of-iaea-1433773668>) (June 8)

investigation into Iran’s past actions has become a focal point for skeptics of the nuclear agreement Iran reached with six world powers on July 14. The deal still needs approval from U.S. Congress, which is due to vote on the accord next month.

Under the July agreement, Iran must cooperate with a five-month probe into Iran’s alleged weaponization work to secure sanctions relief.

The terms of the IAEA’s probe were set out in two confidential side deals Iran and the IAEA agreed in July. Some U.S. lawmakers and the Israeli government have demanded the agency reveal details of the probe to demonstrate that the investigation will force Iran to give real answers to concerns about its past activities. They have said Iran can only build confidence if it comes clean about its alleged past actions.

Senior IAEA and U.S. officials have defended the terms of the probe as “robust” but said they must abide by the confidentiality of the arrangements.

Mr. Najafi also refused to disclose any of the details, including whether the agency’s inspectors will get access to the Parchin military site, where Tehran is alleged to have carried out tests in the early 2000s connected to nuclear weapons technology. Iran had long denied the agency access to Parchin.



Some nuclear experts have said access to Parchin is one of a number of steps Iran must take to allow the IAEA to draw a clear conclusion about how far advanced Iran's alleged weapons work was. They say that would be critical in measuring how much time it would take Iran to build a bomb were it to breach the terms of July's nuclear agreement and accrue enough fissile material for a bomb.

Many Western officials say there is strong evidence Iran worked on nuclear weapons technology though there is less consensus on when those activities stopped.

While he declined to offer any more information on the side deals, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano told reporters on Tuesday that the arrangements the agency made on inspecting Parchin wouldn't set a precedent for future inspections of other sites in Iran. He said these would be set on a case-by-case basis. U.S. lawmakers have said the IAEA agreed that Iran could handle the taking of soil samples at Parchin.

Mr. Amano recalled his years of efforts to win Iranian transparency on its past nuclear program, which included a controversial move in 2011 to publish 12 sets of detailed issues and concerns about Iran's work.

"We are doing our utmost to clarify the issue," Mr. Amano said.

On Aug. 15, Iran met its first deadline under the IAEA probe to hand over explanations of its past nuclear activities. Mr. Amano wouldn't say whether Iran had presented new and useful information but he did say Tehran had given the agency a "substantial volume" of material.



International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Yukiya Amano, pictured with Iranian Vice President Ali Akbar Salehi, July 14. Mr. Amano has said the IAEA is capable of effectively monitoring Iran's commitments under the signed accord. *PHOTO: EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY*

At Tuesday's IAEA meeting, U.S. Ambassador Henry Ensher urged Iran to clear up all remaining issues by Oct. 15. The agency must present a report on Iran's compliance to

the Board of Governors by Dec. 15.

Other countries, including Canada, also pressed Iran not to stonewall the IAEA past-work probe at Tuesday's meeting, said officials who attended the meeting. Before July's agreement, Tehran had only partially addressed two of 12 sets of questions the IAEA asked in November 2011 about its past work.

At Tuesday's meeting, Mr. Amano said his organization will need an additional €9.2 million (\$10.6 million) annually to police the Iranian nuclear deal. Beyond 2016, the agency would seek ways of bringing the extra spending within its regular budget, he said.

Of that amount, some €6.2 million will go to inspect Iran's declared nuclear facilities and other related sites like uranium mines and mills and surveillance of Iran's manufacturing of centrifuges and storage locations. The remaining €3 million will go to overseeing Iran's activities at a broader range of locations, possibly including military sites.

He said the IAEA would need a substantial number of additional inspectors in Iran and more analysts in Vienna to handle the Iran case load.

Mr. Amano, who said he was leaning toward running for a third term as IAEA head in 2017, appealed for a broad range of contributions from IAEA members.

Mr. Ensher said the U.S. stands ready to provide more money. At least a half dozen other countries also pledged to help, according to a diplomat in Tuesday's meeting. The U.S. provided around one quarter of the IAEA's regular budget last year.

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